persons may be remitted by postal money order, deducting the money order commission.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

FORESTS.

(Nos. 94 to 100.)

SUBJECT No. 94.

Reservation of forests in the malnad.

Messrs. N. Subba Rao and Mylarappa, Nagar taluk; Tammayyabhatta and Agumbe Rama Rao, Tirthahalli taluk; K. Shankarnarayana Rao, Nagar Sabha and Nadig Bhaskar Rao, Shimoga District Board.

Summary of discussion.—Lands for various communal purposes were originally set apart in the malnad after a careful consideration of the local requirements. All communal lands, whether gomal or *soppinabetta* or district forests, and even occupied *kans*, are being indiscriminately reserved at present by the Forest Department. No benefits are derived by the public from the coupes formed by the Forest Department. The decisions of the Forest Settlement Officer have not been very favourable to the malnad raiyats. It is therefore suggested that the forest policy of Government in this respect may be kindly reconsidered, and the forests in the malnad allowed to continue to remain as District forests.

NOTE.—G. O. No. R. 1703-5—Ft. 119-11-2, dated 24th September 1912, explaining that there are no grounds for presuming excessive reservation, was read out to members.

SUBJECT No. 95.

Rules regarding the grant of lands containing sandal trees.

Messrs. C. Srinivasa Rao and B. Kesaviah, Chikmagalur taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Applicants have to pay the price of sandal trees standing on the lands for which applications are made. In the malnad, this rule works as a great hardship to the raiyats, and the Government loses its revenue. The rule may be done away with, at least in the malnad districts. In the Kadur district, *darkhasts*, in which the upset price demanded amounted to so much as Rs. 400 in a single case, had to be rejected as the applicants could not pay the amount.

Reply of Government.—The subject is under the consideration of Government.

SUBJECT No. 96.

Bonus on sandal trees.

Messrs. Revana Siddiah and Halappa; Honnali taluk, Bhavani Rao, Shikarpur taluk; Srinivasa Deekshit, Shikarpur municipality; K. Shankarnarayana Rao, Nagar Sabha; P. Venkappiah, Shimoga municipality and Syed Rahim Sab, Heggaddevankote taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The present value of the bonus on sandal trees on assessed waste lands is recovered when such lands are granted for cultivation. There is no provision for the return of this amount when this land is relinquished by the occupant. A fresh applicant has to pay the present value of the bonus on the same sandal trees again, so that Government would be getting several times the value of such trees from successive applicants for the same land. Besides this on account of the high

value of the trees, several *darkhasts* have to be rejected and Government is losing a large amount in the shape of land revenue, as the lands containing sandal trees lie waste on this account. It is therefore prayed that the present rule may be revised and the sandal tree may be treated as before as the exclusive property of Government for the safe preservation whereof the occupant is liable under the Forest Regulation.

Reply of Government.—Under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 97.

Traction Engine.

Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, himoga municipality.

Summary of discussion.—From the figures furnished last year it is evident that the employment of the Traction Engine has not resulted in any gain to the Government. It is not known how a profit of Rs. 9,750 has been arrived at for the past two years and a half.

The capital investment is	.... Rs.	47,000
Being a commercial concern, we have to add to actual expenses, interest at 4 per cent per annum on the capital outlay. This works out for 2½ years to a sum of	.... ,,	4,700
Add working expenses during the above period (as furnished by the Conservator of Forests)	,,	11,000
Total		15,700
Add depreciation and sinking fund at 10 per cent on the capital outlay	....Rs.	4,700
Total	Rs.	20,400

The estimated value of work being Rs. 21,000, the net profits barely come up to Rs. 600 and not Rs. 9,750 as given by the Forest Department.

Our roads also are considerably damaged by this engine. The Public Works Department will be able to say what they claim on this account.

It is suggested that experimenting with such concerns may not be undertaken.

Reply of Government.—Will be enquired into.

SUBJECT No. 98.

Cardamom cultivation in State Forests.

Mr. H. Basavegowda, Manjarabad taluk.

Summary of discussion.—It has been decided that not less than 50 acres may be leased out to raiyats for cardamom cultivation in State Forests. As this rule is helpful only to the rich, it is prayed that in order to help the poor raiyats the minimum may be reduced to 10 acres.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered.